

The monthly A*C*E

since 1982

June 2003

WRV RADIO VIRUS

The Station Nobody Wants To Catch

TO: John T. Arthur
DATE: 6/9/1994
UTC: 00:10 TO 00:32
FREQ: 7465 kHz AM

Sincerely,
Pete The Pirate

Printed on recycled paper

from the desk of the Managing Editor

Ye Olde jta: jta@localnet.com
or: (585) 365-8870 (not collect)

June. You gotta be kidding! As I stumble over the keyboard writing this the outside temperature is in the mid-30s. In June? What happened to Spring? Actually, we had a few days in the 70s and 80s, but that was back in March and April. NOW is when it's supposed to be warm. Whuzzup, Ms. Nature?

I see Leezo is still stuffing his shack with goodies (see DiaLogs). Must be nice. I must admit to some additions here, too. I finally got back over to my late Mother's house and took down the pole and rotator; they're here now and the pole will be installed shortly. That only took two years... Finally I can put up the Alpha-Delta "double sloper" and hopefully improve my pirate reception on the R75.

Meantime, the grass is growing like there's no tomorrow. Keeping it mowed is a fulltime job this time of year. Natch, I had to spread some fertilizer last autumn - now I'm paying for it! Thank goodness for lawn tractors!

But enough of that. What's new in your life?

Onward!

FRN THE FREE RADIO NETWORK

"Pirate Radio Invades the World Wide Web!"



- ✓ Audio Clips
- ✓ Photos
- ✓ QSLs
- ✓ The ACE
- ✓ Chat
- ✓ News
- ✓ The Grapevine
- ✓ Over 1000 Links

DIALOGS June 2003

Lee Reynolds, 53 Unity Springs Road, Lempster, NH 03605-3130
Email: lreynolds@spamcop.net

AIM: KD1SQ / ICQ: 4139354 / Yahoo IM: KD1SQ

(Next deadline for submissions: June 18th, 2003)

LATE LOGS

Radio Tre

- 04/10/03, 0219-0308, 6955A - IDs, jingles, English lyric songs. (RD-PA Fair) (This is believed to be an unauthorized relay of an Italian FM station on SW - Lee)

Shorty Longwire

- 04/12/03, 0349-0412*, 6950U - mx - Rap. Young anncr confessing to being "just a kid". (RD-PA Fair)

FROM ACROSS THE POND

De nada!

NORTH/SOUTH AMERICAN LOGGINGS

Big Bass Radio (Unknown)

- 04/22/03, 0207, 6950U - mx - "Carry On My Wayward Son", talking to Grasscutter Radio. (AF Fair) (Damn! And there was me hoping it was Bobcat Goldthwaite's station "Big Ass Radio!" Oh well... Lee)

Big Thunder Radio (bighunderradio@hotmail.com)

- 04/20/03, 0257-0351+, 6925L - mx - "Casey Jones", "Everyone Likes The Cha-Cha", "My Redneck Friend". Broadcasting live from Mexicali, Mexico. (JS-NE Fair)
- 04/23/03, 0155-0212*, 6925U - mx - Rolling Stones. Still in Mexicali, Mexico. (JS-NE Poor)
- 05/11/03, 0332-0510*, 6925A? - mx - Hendrix. Very weak. (JS-NE Poor)

Grasscutter Radio (Unknown)

- 04/18/03, 0210, 6925U - mx - Zeppelin, Hendrix, Clash. Testing antennas. (WH-IL 142)
- 04/27/03, 0145-0200+, 6950A - mx - The Who. Greetings to various listeners and Pirates. (FM-NH Poor)
- 04/27/03, 2345, 6950U - mx - "Blue Suede Shoes", "Whole Lotta Shaking Going On" medley. Greetings to various listeners. (AF Good)
- 04/29/03, 0006-0130*, 6950U - mx - Rock. "Check your tire pressure, Commander Bunny!" Thanks to Chris Lobdell. (AF Good) (GZ-OH 222)
- 04/29/03, 0220+, 6950U - mx - Metal. (JS-NE Poor)
- 05/09/03, 2329, 6925U - mx - Cream. Broadcasting from the "fookin' ionosphere". (AF Fair)
- 05/12/03, 0019-0025*, 6925U - mx - Rock. OM anncr apologized at end of show for stepping on James Brownyard's transmission and they moved to 6950. (GZ-OH 242) (JS-NE Poor)
- 05/12/03, 0026-0028+, 6950U - mx - Rock. ID but no contact data again. (GZ-OH 141)
- 05/14/03, 2359, 6950U - mx - Traffic. "Grasscutter fookin' Radio, man!" (AF Good)
- 04/15/03, 0144-0211+, 6950U - mx - Beck. Played the tune for Red October 90. Shout out to Sunshine Radio. (JS-NE Fair)

- 04/28/03, 0040-0104, 6950U – popping popcorn and greeting listeners posting on the FRN. (WS-TN Fair)

Indira Calling (Providence)

- 05/13/03, 0223-0247*, 6925A – the infamous Zeller bootleg of the Beach Boys' concert in India. Calcutta, Rhode Island mail drop. (JS-NE Good)(Pse QSL MT-WI Good)

KRMI (krmi6955@yahoo.com)

- 04/19/03, *0210-0233*, 6925A – children's songs & stories. A fairy tale with a moral. WHYP relay. (WH-IL 244)(GM-CT 232)(MT-WI Good)
- 04/20/03, 0458-0518*, 6950U – mx – Metal, another to the tune of "Itsy Bitsy Spider". "I'm sorry, the radio station you used to listen to has been changed!" Also bunny-themed songs. (AF Poor)(JS-NE Good)

Oxycontin Radio (None)

- 05/13/03, 0144-0229+, 6925A – Uncle Schleckstein talking about drugs, clips of Bozo and Steve Anderson. A request played for Kevin Miller. (JS-NE Fair)
- 05/15/03, 0245-0314, 6925A – clips of altered Rock mx, audio clips, "175 Watts of pure Oxycontin Power – Oxycontin Radio!" (MT-WI Good)

Ragnar Radio (ragnarradio@yahoo.com)

- 04/19/03, 1123-1202+, 6925A – mx – Patriotic inc. "Battle Hymn of the Republic", "Star Spangled Banner". ID "Ragnar Radio – broadcasting for Freedom!" (JS-NE Fair)
- 04/26/03, 0139-0213*, 6925A – mx – Black Sabbath? Clip of "Breaking the Law". (JS-NE Fair)(WS-TN Poor)
- 04/27/03, 0148-0221*, 6925A – mx – Rock. OM anncr said this "station was breaking the law". Intermittent modulation problems. (GZ-OH 343)
- 04/27/03, 1214-1238+, 6955A – mx – "Good Old Pirate Radio", Bob Seeger. (JS-NE Fair)

Shadow Radio (the_shadow6950@hotmail.com)

- 04/28/03, 0117-0216*, 6950U – mx- Elvis Presley, Perry Como. OM anncr, Shadow Radio news. An episode of "The Shadow". (AF Fair)(JS-NE Good)(WS-TN Good)(MT-WI Poor)

Shorty Longwire (shortylongwire@hotmail.com?)

- 04/20/03, 0321-0412*, 6950U – mx – Eminem. YL anncr. (AF Good)(JM-WA Poor)(JS-NE Good)

Sunshine Radio (Unknown)

- 04/20/03, 2338-2359+, 6925A – mx – "Train In Vain", "Take My Breath Away". YL anncr "Sunshine Radio, I hope you're enjoying the music, happy Easter, everybody!" (AF Fair)(GM-CT 131)(WS-TN Poor)
- 04/21/03, 0140-0150, 6925A – mx – "Hungry Eyes", "Unchained Melody". YL anncr w/"Sunshine Radio" ID, "Thanks for listening, Happy Easter!" (Pse QSL RD-PA Fair)(Pse QSL JS-NE Poor)
- 05/14/03, 0159-0239+, 6950U – mx – Kenny Rogers, The Who, The Bee Gees. Thanks to Red October 90 for an FRN posting. (Pse QSL JS-NE Fair)

The Voice of Captain Ron Shortwave (captainronswr@yahoo.com)

- 05/13/03, 0134-0219*, 6925U – mx – "We Are All Made Of Stars". Clips of Bozo, Moe Howard, Tony Straka. Greetings to various Pirate ops. (JS-NE Good)(MT-WI Poor)

United Patriot Militia Bingo (Merlin)

- 05/12/03, 0033-0134, 6925A – a bingo game for camo fatigues and money. Steve Anderson is the winner. Much praise of Yahweh and big guns by Militia Babe. (MT-WI Fair)

Voodoo Radio (vudull@hotmail.com)

- 04/24/03, 0116-0200*, 6925U – mx – Stray Cats, Hendrix? OM anncr saying "Bow-wow. Bow-wow". Indistinct audio made ID impossible. (JS-NE Poor)
- 04/30/03, 0208-0219, 6925U – mx, no ID. (MT-WI Poor)
- 05/01/03, 0205-0238+, 6950U – mx – Rock. Noisy condx. (JS-NE Poor)

WBNY (Belfast)

- 04/20/03, 0105-0128*, 6950A – Commander Bunny with special instructions for Al Fansome. (AF Poor)(WS-TN Poor)
- 04/20/03, 0308-0316*, 6950A – messages for Al Fansome, all rabbits. Music for Radiohead "One of the few humans who knows how to act like a rabbit!" Mention of the Rodent Revolution. (AF Fair)(Pse QSL RD-PA Fair)(WS-TN Fair)
- 04/20/03, 2314-2329*, 6955A – repeat of the Easter show. (AF Good)(WS-TN Poor)
- 04/28/03, 0105-0112*, 6950A – checking one's tires, instructions to turn one's radio O-F-F-I. (WH-IL 132)(AF Poor)(WS-TN Poor)
- 05/02/03, 0041, 6950A – coded messages, robotic voices, warnings of tire damage, foreign accents. (AF Fair)

WHYP (whyp6925@yahoo.com)

- 04/18/03, 0003-0110, 6925A – distorted audio. Promises of QSLs from the "WHYP Empire". (WH-IL 254)(MT-WI Good)
- 04/19/03, 0042-0215*, 6925A – retrospective show. A report on the Third Annual WHYP Croquet Open. (WH-IL 144)(GM-CT 333)(RD-PA Good)(JS-NE Fair)(MT-WI)
- 04/20/03, 0023-0240, 6925A – mx – Devo. "The drug broadcast", stories from Gizmo. (AF Good)(WH-IL 244)(GZ-OH 353)(GM-CT 333)(JS-NE Fair)
- 05/11/03, 0227-0300*, 6925A – mx – "Just Can't Wait" and "We Don't Want It Anymore". Pirate SW Mystery artiste w/prize to the first correct email answer. Slow on QSLs because they're busy putting together/transmitting shows. (JS-NE Fair)
- 05/12/03, 0005-0025*, 6925A – comments on propagation, off w/quote by the fab marvy George Zeller about the station that was "so bad it was good". (JS-NE Poor)(MT-WI Fair)
- 05/16/03, 0110, 6925A – "Top 10 Ganja graphics of all time", mention of Bozo images. (AF Fair)
- 05/17/03, 0009, 6925A – Grasscutter and Uncle Schleckstein are planning on dropping by. (AF Good)
- 05/18/03, 0137, 6925A – commentary on a thread in the FRN's VINES area. (AF Fair)
- 05/19/03, 0213-0230, 6925A – a rebroadcast of the Halloween show. (MT-WI Good)

WMFQ (Providence)

- 05/17/03, 0214-0250, 6925A – mx – "Smile On Your Brother", Beatles. Sound FX, mx loops, cussing. (AF Fair)(JM-WA Poor)

WMOE (Belfast)

- 04/20/03, 0421-0437+, 6950U – mx – "Fever". "Quiet, numbskulls – I'm broadcasting!", "Had to give up the Heroin", Madonna's spiritual quest. (AF Fair)(JS-NE Good)

WMPR (FRN)

- 04/19/03, 2249-2320+, 6925A – mx – Techno. Puppy ID. (AF Good)(JS-NE Fair)
- 04/22/03, 0031-0036*, 6925U – mx – Techno. OM ID w/reverb. (GZ-OH 333)
- 04/25/03, 2313, 6955A – mx – Techno. (AF Good)
- 04/26/03, 0237-0324, 6925A – mx – Techno. "WMPR 6925" ID w/cat meowing. (MT-WI Good)
- 05/02/03, 2325, 6955A – mx – "Fascination Street". (AF Good)

WRAY (Belfast)

- 05/02/03, 2345, 6950A – "All rise for the national anthem!" ID w/reverb. Belfast drop given. (AF Poor)

TENTATIVE/UNIDENTIFIED

Big Bass Radio?

- 04/22/03, 0147, 6950U – mx – Cream. Possibly Big Bass Radio? (AF Fair)

Commander Radio?

- 04/27/03, *0142-0148*, 6951A – Commander Bunny with coded messages for the rodent hordes. “You have been listening to a special coded message from the Rodent Revolution. Any attempt to trace this message will result in severe tire damage!” No WBNY ID heard but at QRT heard something like “Commander Radio” repeated three times. Content seems different to that reported for Grasscutter hence assumption that this might be a different station. (GZ-OH 343)

Ragnar Radio?

- 04/20/03, 0102+, 6955U – mx – Military. Very weak. (GM-CT 111)
- 04/27/03, 0035, 6925A – mx – Pirate, guitar. (AF Poor)

Sunshine Radio?

- 05/04/03, 0140, 6925U – mx – “Taxman”. Possible YL ID, very weak. (AF Poor)

UNID

- 04/20/03, 0130, 6955A – music. (AF Poor)
- 04/20/03, 0325, 6925U – mx – Hendrix. (JM-WA Poor)
- 04/20/03, 1332-1340, 6955A – mx – Rock. Possible ID @ 1336. (Pse QSL JS-NE Poor)
- 04/20/03, 2233-2336, 6950U – mx – “Hotel California”. (AF Good)
- 04/24/03, 0113-0157+, 6950U – possible political talk show relay, mention of President Bush, later mention of safe houses. (Pse QSL JS-NE Poor)
- 04/24/03, 0237-0322*, 6950U – mx – “Black Magic Woman”, “Spinning Wheel”, Mrs. Jones”. Possible ID @ 0243. (Pse QSL JS-NE Fair)
- 04/26/03, 2358, 6950A – some mx, ID, couldn’t make it out. (AF Poor)
- 04/27/03, 0045-0121, 6925A – dead carrier, tinny audio through phone line. (WH-IL 254)
- 04/29/03, 0225, 6950U – Christian religious broadcast. (AF Fair)
- 04/30/03, 0242-0258*, 6925U – clips from Grasscutter Radio, Radio Bingo, other Pirate clips. No ID per se. (AF Fair)(MT-WI Poor)
- 04/30/03, 0227-0233, 6950U – mx – Rap or Scat which wound down at the end. No talk. (MT-WI Fair)
- 05/05/03, 2241-2333+, 6925A – Crunche-like mx, pan pipes/flute. (AF Fair)(Pse QSL JS-NE Poor)
- 05/12/03, 0206-0215*, 6925U – mx – Reggae – “Legalize It” and “Down With The Man”. (Pse QSL JS-NE Good)

WBNY?

- 04/26/03, 2345, 6950A – mx – “Plastic Jesus”. (WH-IL 132)

QSL CONTRIBUTORS/PLEASE

Rich D’Angelo, 2216 Burkey Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610 (RD-PA)
 Al “Hasenpfeffer” Fansome (AF)
 William Hassig, 102 North Russell Street, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056-2443 (WH-IL)
 Greg Majewski, 1176 Route 163, Oakdale, CT 06370 (GM-CT)
 Fred Moe, 36 West Main Street, Warner, NH 03278 (FM-NH)
 John Morris, Whidbey Island, WA (JM-WA)
 John Sedlacek, 2728 North 45th Avenue, Omaha, NE 68104 (JS-NE)
 Woody Smith, P.O. Box 52823, Knoxville, TN 37950 (WS-TN)
 Mark Taylor, 1114 Ellen Avenue, Madison, WI 53716 (MT-WI)
 George Zeller, 3492 West 123rd Street, Cleveland, OH 44111 (GZ-OH)

TEN (and TWENTY) YEARS AFTER...

June 1983: ACE was 20 pages, Lani Pettit’s Spy Center was 3 pages, DiaLogs was 4 pages including 9 NAm SW, 2 NAm MW, 1 Euro, 7 Clandestines and 3 unIDs from 17 contributors.

June 1993: ACE was 32 pages, DiaLogs was 10 pages including 45 NAm SW, 2 Euro and 34 unID from 17 contributors.

RAMBLINGS

Well, noise season is with us once again. Nothing like listening to the static generated by thunderstorms 24 hours a day, eh? At least the ground has thawed, so now’s the time to get out into the yard and do any antenna maintenance you may have planned. I’m fortunate in that I live in a rural area and have five and a half acres – this means that I’ve managed to get some decent wires into the air – this also means I have to maintain the dang stuff once it finally is up! One task for this season is to take the pair of ancient Alpha-Delta Slopers down (they’re ten years old) and junk them, put up a single replacement A-D Sloper and get another Stridsberg 8-port HF multicoupler to feed it into. I also plan on redoing the grounding system for the Sloper and adding one of those nice little ICE static/lightning protection units in the line. Of course, the real fun part is going to be when I try to dig a four to six foot deep hole to put the treated wooden anchor post into – the rock around here has very little soil in it.... New Hampshire is not a state for the Unmanly – just trying to dig a hole anywhere in the area quickly proves that!

A few months ago I mentioned that Radio Shack were selling their little AM loop antenna for a princely \$19.95. Well, it looks as if RS are disengaging from anything but conventional radio in a major way – they’re holding a sale on a great many radio items (business band mobile transceivers, 10 meter rigs, business HTs, etc.) and you can now find the AM loop for \$9.95. So I bought a spare.

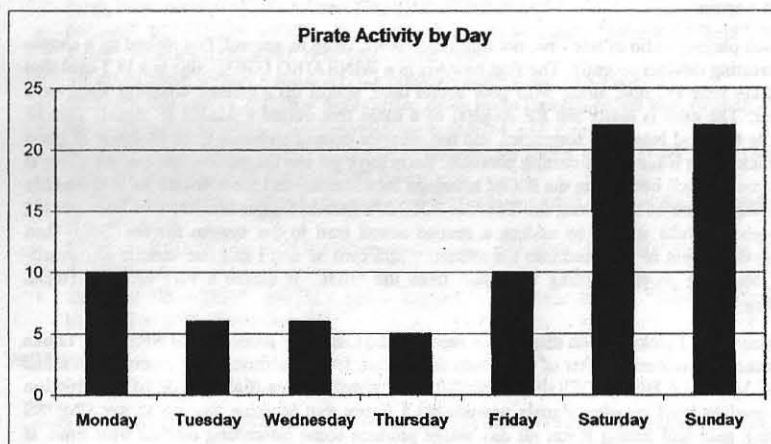
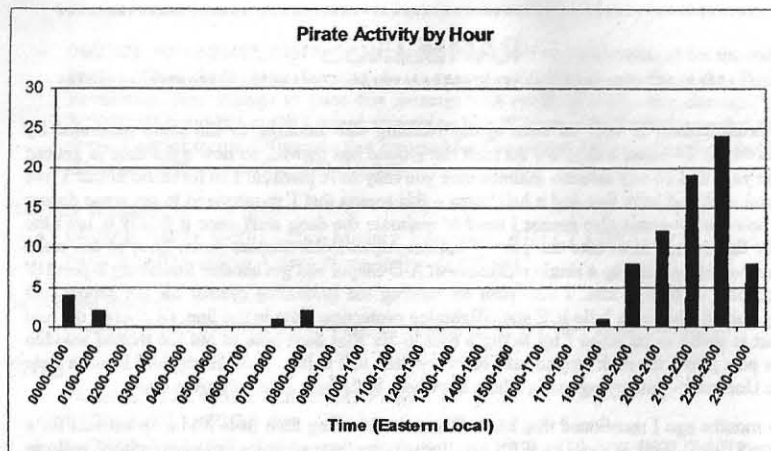
I’ve been playing radio of late - no, not *that* kind - SWL radio in general. I’ve picked up a couple of interesting devices recently. The first new toy is a WinRADiO G303i - this is a PCI card that fits inside your PC that, along with your sound card, makes up a general coverage shortwave receiver. The card is really the RF stage(s) of a radio that output a 12kHz IF signal. This IF signal is then fed into your soundcard and the receiver control software does all kinds of good DSP tricks with it for your listening pleasure. Early days yet but the performance of the thing is pretty good (much better than the ICOM offerings for example) and the software for it is steadily improving. Think of it as being the Ten-Tec RX-320’s (much) bigger brother. I’ve been getting really good results with it by adding a second sound card to the system for the ‘303i, then feeding the output of that card into the system sound card so that I can run various soundcard-based decoding programs using the audio from the ‘303i. It makes a very nice PC-HFDL decoding setup.

The second toy I picked up on eBay, it’s a Japan Radio Company product - the NRD-220. Looks as if someone’s releasing a few of these onto the market. It’s a maritime watch receiver that scans the one MF and 6 HF GMDSS distress frequencies. (GMDSS is a digital mode of transmission that’s used to send mayday signals nowadays.) I figure that hooking that up to my GMDSS decoding gear and letting it run all day might produce some interesting catches over time. If you’re interested in things like this, the ‘220 might be a useful acquisition for you.

The fab marvy Mister George Zeller comments that some Pirates have been operating on odd frequencies of late and that, while there is nothing wrong with this, George says, it’s a habit that has been proven in the past to severely limit a station’s potential audience. So, before you decide to try that special broadcast on 8.976MHz, try letting at least a few trusted listeners know in advance...

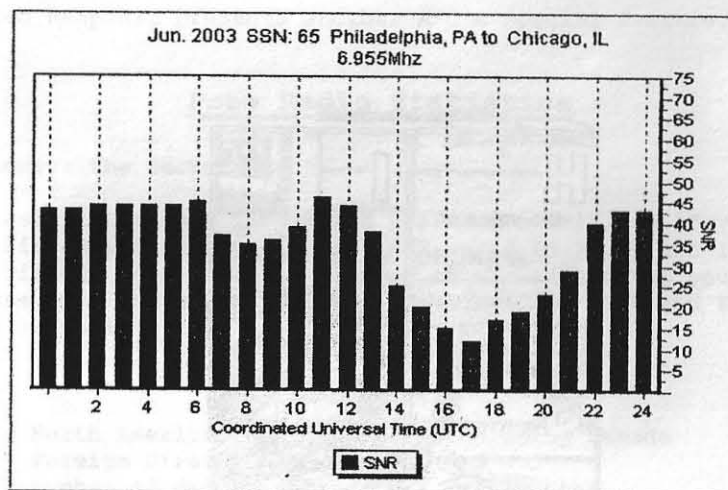
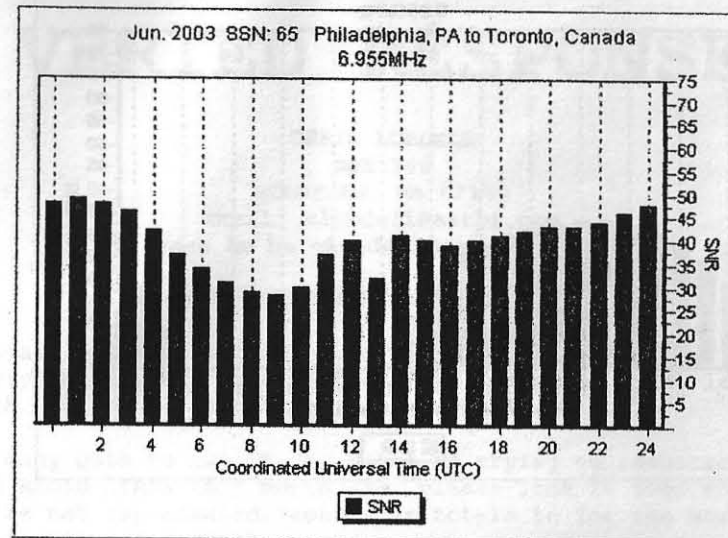
STATISTICS

As has been the case, late evening on a weekend is the best time to listen. Also a Saturday or Sunday breakfast time can yield results.

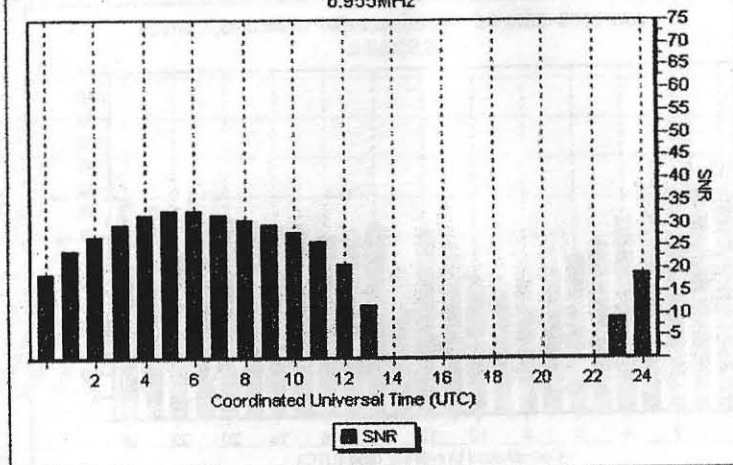


PROPAGATION

Variety is the spice of life, so I'm told; therefore this month's charts are for slightly different locations - Toronto, Chicago and Phoenix.



Jun. 2003 SSN: 65 Philadelphia, PA to Phoenix, AZ
6.955MHz



VERIED RESPONSE

CHRIS LOBDELL

BOX 146

STONEHAM, MA 02180

Email: clobdell@attbi.com

[soon to be clobdell@comcast.net!]

NEXT COLUMN DEADLINE: June 19th

Hi again folks, I'm glad to say I was with the help of my trusty dog Shayna, able to fight off Commander Bunny last month. We won't see him until next Easter.

Not many QSLs to report on, but I am trying to resurrect the FREE RADIO STATS this month. So, please look it over and if you're not represented, send your totals in for the next showing in a few months.

Veried Response presents another A*C*E Special feature:

Free Radio Statistics

formerly: The Scoreboard

We haven't run this for over a year and a half, so if you're not listed and a member of the ACE, send in yours and if you are listed, send in those updated totals as soon as you can. Please note that we have now included medium wave and FM QSLs as well.

KEY:

NAM = North American Pirate QSLs, including Canada

For = Foreign Pirate QSLs, outside NAM

dif = number of different stations represented

Tot = total different Pirate QSLs, NAM + For

MW/FM = Total medium wave & FM QSLs



name-state	--pirates--			-cland- MW&FM		Best QSL
	NAM/dif	For/dif	Tot	tot/dif	to/df	
G Zeller-OH	500/352	10/10	362	8/8		WHBH bust
J Arthur-NY	520/290	23/19	309	4/4	26/22	SML Ltd
T Provance-CA	430/251	21/16	267	14/11		Vo Acid
F Murphy-VA	248/196	19/15	211			CSIC chicken
C Smolinski-MD	180/152	21/15	201	2/2		VoVoyager bust

B Stacey-AL	262/136	2/2	138		Zepplin R WW
C Lobdell-MA	90/75	29/27	102		R Mi Amigo
S Gentry-IL	129/77	6/3	80		KMCR
R D'Angelo-PA	69/63	18/15	78	29/27	He-Man R
S Rogovich-VA	56/52	2/2	54		R Clandestine
B Wooten-GA	16/13		13		

The ACE QSL Statistics appear in the Feb., June, and Oct. editions of Veried Response. Kindly update your totals in January, May, and/or September for inclusion; mail them to: ACE Stats, PO Box 146, Stoneham, MA 02180 or email to the Veried Response address.

Please note that the ACE Stats are *only* available to A*C*E members!

QSLs

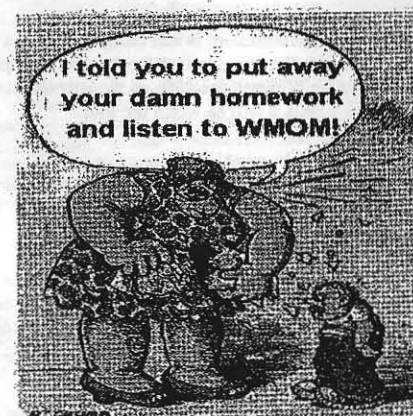
RADIO SPACEMAN-Dutch Pirate. 6.305 F/D card in 42 days for \$2.00. Also rcvd personal letter, postcard and info sheet from V/S Miss Spaceman. [Comeau-MA]

RAGNAR RADIO. 6925. QSL received for show #2003-3 Ragnar's Number Prelue. Thank you for the QSL! [Silvi- Ohio] Broadcasting Freedom from the Great Lakes" FD QSL & CD of Show 2003-1 (Ragnar's Support of the Troops Show). Received in about one week for posting on the FRN/ACE site. Many thanks, Ragnar! [Sedlacek-NE]

Thanks go to Ross Comeau-MA, John Sedlacek-NE and Lee Silvi-OH.

Next month we will run The Directory, so if you have any maildrop updates, get them into me now.

73/FFFR,
Chris



YOU HAD BETTER LISTEN TO YOUR

WMOM

THE BIGGEST MOTHER ON THE BLOCK

6965 KHZ USB/AM @ 50 WATTS

TO WMOM LISTENER JOHN T. ARTHUR

THX FOR RECEPTION REPORT OF 4/25/97 AT 149 UTC.
LOVE AND PEACE, MOM

THX JOHN!

The A*C*E Mother's Day Special...

RANDOM TRANSMISSIONS

by Frederick Moe
singinggrove@conknet.com

Greetings dear readers ... yes, Random Transmissions is still being written as a column for the ACE newsletter. Unfortunately this month I'm going to tantalize you with the prospect of a planned forthcoming interview with Alan Maxwell & article on the inter-dimensional pirate station, KIPM. So please stay tuned - I think it will be worth the wait!

I am very willing to craft articles, conduct interviews, and generally wax poetic about the unique virtues of **YOUR** pirate station if you would like to be featured in this column. Please contact me at the e-mail above for further discussion!

I discovered shortwave and pirate radio only recently in my radio listening career - in Y2K at the age of 40! Where was I in the golden 80's & 90's when so many fascinating stations took to the airwaves? Probably working too much & watching too much television.

The seeds of pirate radio listening were planted in me many moons ago by - of all things - a commercial station! WSLE was an FM station based in Peterborough NH in the late 1970's and early 1980's. They called themselves "The Folk Station" - "You're the folks and we're the station". Their signal reached about a 30 mile radius, vanishing and reappearing throughout rural southwest New Hampshire hills. Listening to WSLE always made my driving excursions intriguing!

WSLE featured, among other things, local news, local artists, and promoted community events. During any given hour one could hear an unknown folk musician, Pink Floyd, solo classical guitar tunes and the Beatles. It was a commercial station where musically anything could happen, and was unlike anything I had ever heard on the radio dial here in Radio Free New Hampshire. It was the adventure of listening, of not knowing what to expect that draws me to pirate radio - radio without constraints and the boundaries are only limited by the operators' imaginations.

Legend has it that the day WSLE was sold, and was about to convert to a pop/disco format, TT, a DJ & central protagonist for maintaining freeform programming at WSLE, placed "Stairway to Heaven" on the turntable, walked out of the studio and drove away, leaving the new owners to scramble to figure out what to do next. The dead air that followed was a metaphor for the demise of community radio in New Hampshire.

Until next month, 73's everybody!

Covert Comms

by Chris Smolinski

chris@spynumbers.com



Welcome to another edition of Covert Corner. This month's featured station is both a numbers station and a pirate. While there have been a few parody numbers stations in the past, they have usually been short lived, with just one or two transmissions. For almost a year now, we've been hearing coded messages from the "Rodent Revolution", aka WBNY. These coded messages are supposedly transmitted from the revolution's leader, Commander Bunny, to his shock troops in the field.

These transmissions were first noted on August 7, 2002, on 6950 kHz. Transmissions have mostly been heard on this frequency, although 6955 and 6925 have also been reported. Both AM and SSB have been heard. The signal strength and technical quality of these transmissions is usually quite poor, leading one to suspect a connection to the Cuban Attention stations.

Most transmissions have used the same encryption method, a simple substitution cipher, one of the most basic methods of encoding a message. Each letter of the alphabet is encoded using a number from 1 to 26. No spaces are sent, it is up to the recipient to place spaces in the correct locations after decrypting the message. Derek Glidden came up with the solution using letter frequency information.

The decryption table is:

1	M	8	E	15	P	22	?
2	L	9	D	16	?	23	Y
3	J?	10	C	17	R	24	J?
4	I	11	B	18	S	25	?
5	H	12	A	19	T	26	?
6	G	13	N	20	U		
7	F	14	O	21	W		

J has been reported to use both 3 and 24, this may be due to encryption errors, 3 fits the obvious pattern better. 16 can be inferred to be Q. K, V, X and Z are unknown at present. Further transmissions may identify them.

The most recent message heard was on May 19, 2003 at 2328 UTC on 6950 AM, and decrypted to: "COMMANDER BUNNY IS GO"

That's about it for this month. I need to go outside and check my tire pressure.

73,
Chris

the ASSOCIATION of CLANDESTINE radio ENTHUSIASTS

PO Box 1, Belfast, New York 14711-0001

The A*C*E is an association of individuals who find pirate, clandestine and covert communications an interesting part of their radio listening hobby. The primary existence of the club revolves around the publication of a monthly bulletin, The A*C*E. The bulletin reports on pirate, clandestine, covert and other unexplained broadcasts. Also, the readers are provided with other available material concerning motives, explanations and the theories behind these various broadcasts and broadcasters. The ACE as an organization, does not encourage, support or condone any illegal activity; we simply seek to understand the nature and reasoning behind such broadcasts. If your interests include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcasts and covert communications, The A*C*E is for you!!

All subscriptions, renewals, and queries regarding subscriptions should be sent to the above club address. Contributions for each editor should be sent to their own given addresses.

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